

00862.022617.



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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
:)
HIROSHI TOJO, et al.)
: Group Art Unit: 2655
Application No.: 10/693,877)
:)
Filed: October 28, 2003)
:)
For: INFORMATION STORING)
: APPARATUS AND METHOD)
: THEREFOR)
: August 23, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the documents (8) to (11) is enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 6,529,522
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 6,009,233
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 5,684,919
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 5,583,654
- (5) U.S. Publication No. 2004-0107223
- (6) U.S. Publication No. 2003-0016942
- (7) U.S. Publication No. 2001-0000970
- (8) Europe 0 951 173
- (9) Japan 7-303239
- (10) Japan 6-318373

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. Application:

| | <u>Application No.</u> | <u>Filing Date</u> | <u>Group Art Unit</u> | <u>Attorney Docket No.</u> | <u>Inventor(s)</u> |
|------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| (11) | 09/239,016 | 01/29/1999 | 2624 | 03500.013284 | Ito, Masamichi |

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the application specification, claims and drawings for the foregoing U.S. Application is enclosed.

Documents (2), (3), (7) and (8) were cited in an International Search Report issued in parent International Application No. PCT/JP 02/05229. A copy of the International Search Report is enclosed.

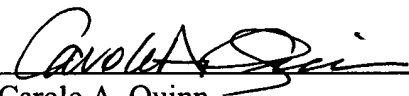
Documents (9) and (10) are discussed in the specification at page 1. These documents might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given therein.

An English-language abstract for each of the above-listed documents (9) and (10) has been located and is enclosed. In addition, document (4) is believed to be an English-language counterpart to document (10).

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| FORM PTO 1449 (modified) | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 00862.022617. | | APPLICATION NO. 10/693,877 | | | |
| U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | APPLICANT HIROSHI TOJO, et al. | | | | | |
| LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) | | FILING DATE October 28, 2003 | | GROUP 2655 | | | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | | 6,529,522 | 3/4/03 | Ito, et al. | 370 | 466 | |
| | | 6,009,233 | 12/28/99 | Tsujimura, et al. | 386 | 95 | |
| | | 5,684,919 | 11/4/97 | Kikuzawa, et al. | 386 | 95 | |
| | | 5,583,654 | 12/10/96 | Oguro | 386 | 96 | |
| | | 2004-0107223 | 6/3/04 | Uno, et al. | 707 | 200 | |
| | | 2003-0016942 | 1/23/03 | Tojo, et al. | 386 | 46 | |
| | | 2001-0000970 | 1/10/01 | Ejima | 348 | 232 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
| | | 0 951 173 | 10/20/99 | Europe | | | |
| | | 7-303239 | 11/14/95 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | 6-318373 | 11/15/94 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | | | | | | |
| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | |
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| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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